

LAKE CHICOT STATE PARK

connects you to Arkansas's largest natural lake with its calm waters, scenic cypress trees, abundant wildlife, and rich Delta heritage.

Lake Chicot State Park is situated in a grove of majestic wild pecans and ringed with cypress trees standing literally "up to their knees" in water, along the nation's largest natural oxbow remnant of the mighty Mississippi River. The Mississippi Delta's captivating beauty and recreational opportunities come together at Arkansas's largest natural lake, Lake Chicot. Cut off centuries ago from the main channel when the Mississippi River changed course, this 20-mile long oxbow lake is a peaceful setting for fishing, boating, and bird watching.

Famous nationwide for its fantastic catches of bream, crappie, bass, and catfish, Lake Chicot lures anglers from all over the country to try their luck among the quiet coves of this bayou-like haven. The area is also appealing to birders and wildlife watchers. Lurking along the high ground and hidden in the swamps of this region are raccoon, mink, bobcat, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and many species of waterfowl. Due to its close proximity to the Mississippi Flyway, this is a winter migratory bird hot spot.

Lake Chicot State Park also offers access to a variety of south Arkansas attractions. Historic in nature is the Great River Road, marked by signage featuring the pilot wheel of a steamboat. Stretching from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, the Great River Road links together sites preserving the history of the Mississippi River Valley and its people. It enters the state near Lake Chicot and passes the entrance to the park on its way north. Stretched as far as the eye can see are farmlands widely known for their high yields in diverse farm products. A tour of the area reflects farming from the plantation era of the early 1800s to the mass production methods of modern technology.

FACILITIES

Cabins ♦ Fourteen cabins are available year round. Eight are barrier-free, housekeeping cabins with a lake view (many with lake view patios). Six cabins offer two bedrooms. All cabins are fully equipped with comfort in mind, including linens, cooking utensils, and tableware. These heated and air-conditioned units stand near the lakeshore and offer a sweeping view of the cypress-shrouded waters plus access to bank fishing at its best. All cabins have fireplaces, to make a winter visit to the park even more enjoyable.

A tree-shaded playground is located near the cabins. Cabins can be reserved online or by calling (during office hours, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily). Select cabins are dog friendly. There is an additional \$40 charge for each dog. Service animals are welcome in all facilities.

Camping ♦ Each of the 78 individual campsites are complete with all the modern conveniences of paved camping pads: dual electrical outlet, water hookup, a table, and a grill. Campers must register at the visitor center before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable (online or by calling) and may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please contact the park to check availability. A sanitary dump station is located near the visitor center for your convenience. To accommodate larger camping rigs, 41 of the campsites have individual sewer hookups. Area A (sites 1-28) has sewer and water hookups, and 50/30 amp electric. Area F (sites 113-126) has sewer and water hookups, with 30 amp electric. Modern bathhouses are located in the campground area. Open year round, the campgrounds offer enjoyment to those who prefer the less crowded comfort, excellent fishing and birding, and beauty of nature during winter months.

Park Store ♦ Open from early spring to late fall, the park general store and marina are well stocked with camping, boating, fishing, picnicking supplies, and fuel. Snacks, ice, firewood, fishing equipment, and bait are available for purchase. Kayaks, fishing boats, and gas powered motors (fuel available) can be rented at the marina for reasonable rates. Rentals are by reservation only. A free launching ramp, located near the marina, is open to those bringing their own rigs. Also, a barrier-free, 100-foot fishing pier is available.

Picnicking/Swimming ♦ A tree-shaded picnic area with tables, grills, water outlets, plus two covered group pavilions, and an indoor pavilion provide ample space for family gatherings. Reserve these at the visitor center before use; fee and deposit required. Located within a short walk of the picnic area is the park's 25-meter swimming pool complete with a separate bathhouse. The pool has a shallow end with water features. The deepest pool depth is 5.5 feet—not suitable for diving. Pool open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. An admission is charged for pool entry.

Other Facilities ♦ Shopping, restaurants, churches, and a hospital are located in the town of Lake Village just eight miles from the park.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The park interpreter provides a variety of programs that enhance your experience at Lake Chicot State Park. All programs and events are designed to connect visitors with the park's main resource: Lake Chicot. Programs include guided walks, kayak and boat tours through cypress swamps, nature talks, and demonstrations.

Groups may request special programs of specific interest year round (arrangements must be made in advance). Located in the visitor center are exhibits which interpret the natural flora and fauna and history of the Mississippi Delta. Lake Chicot's environment attracts a wide variety of birds. Annual birding events include eagle and waterfowl watching, a spring migration count, a Christmas bird count, and guided levee, lake, and trail tours to emphasize this unique area and its diverse bird life.

LOCATION

Take Hwy. 144 from U.S. 65 at Lake Village and drive eight miles northeast to the park; OR, take Hwy. 257 from U.S. 65 southeast 4 miles to Hwy. 144, follow it northeast 5 miles to the park.

For further information on park hours, fees, or services, contact:

Lake Chicot State Park

2542 Hwy 257

Lake Village, AR 71653

(870) 265-5480

LakeChicot@Arkansas.com



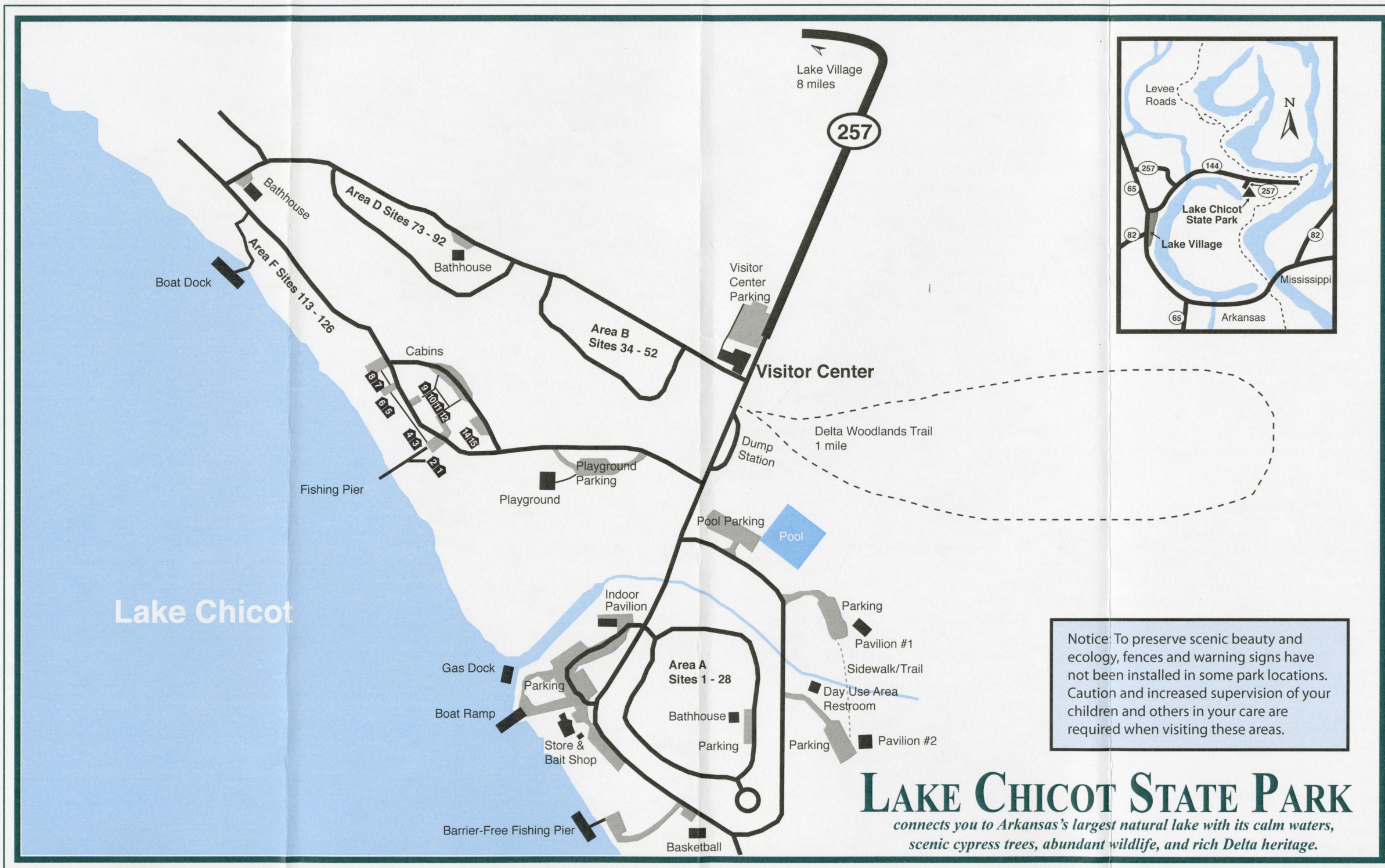
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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM



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